

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-10, 12 and 15-17 are amended.

No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original specification at page 20, lines 10-16, page 21, lines 4-6 and Fig. 2.

Rejection of Claims 1-10 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 7, claims 1-10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0133595, hereafter referred to as Kimura) in view of Furukawa et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0009073, hereafter referred to as Furukawa) in further in view of Inoue (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0031108, hereafter referred to as Inoue).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a home link setting method by a home gateway device having a home agent function for accommodating terminals including a first mobile terminal, the home gateway device being connected to communication links, and recites:

... a step of transmitting, by the home gateway device, a solicitation message requesting network information for setting a home network to all of the communication links;

a step of receiving, by the home gateway device, an advertisement message including the network information;

a home link selecting step of selecting, by the home gateway device, a home link from among communication links other than

a communication link which has received the network information ...

That is, the home gateway device transmits a solicitation message requesting network information for setting a home network and receives an advertisement message including the requested network information. Further, the home gateway device selects a home link from among the communication links other than a communication link which receives the network information.

Kimura Reference

Kimura discloses a home network 100 that includes a home gateway 110 having a routing function that forwards packets between routers, and includes an access point (AP) 150 that is connected to home gateway 110. The home gateway 110 of Kimura is connected to ISP 200 (a server operated by an Internet Service Provider (ISP)). The connection between home gateway 110 and ISP 200 is a communication link. Kimura further discloses a communication link (i.e., a single communication link between home gateway 110 and AP 150. (See for example, Kimura at Fig. 1). Because home gateway 110 includes only two communication links for the home gateway, the step of selecting a home link from among the communication links other than a communication link which has received the network information is not possible in Kimura. This is because, if one of the two communication links is used to provide network information to the home gateway 110 of Kimura only a single communication link remains for the selection. As such a selection of a home link from among communication links (i.e., plural communication links) is not possible.

Furukawa Reference

Furukawa, at the portion cited by the Examiner, discloses a relay control unit provided in a relay gateway that converts an IP packet by using the address connection table which contains the address information of the IP packet and the label information of a signaling unit. Furukawa further discloses that the relay control unit retrieves the signal station address administration table, indicates the telephone number of the destination telephone set, and acquires the signal station address of the exchanger for managing the telephone set. The relay control unit of Furukawa

determines the line number of the signal link selection based on the rule previously determined by the public switched telephone network. (See Furukawa at paragraphs [1003] to [1009].) Thus, Furukawa is concerned with relaying (exchanging) information between a public switched telephone network and IP network. Furukawa, however, at the portion cited by the Examiner, is silent regarding "a home link selecting step of selecting, by the home gateway device, a home link from among the communication links other than a communication link which has received the network information," as required by claim 1. This is because, the Furukawa reference is concerned with receiving IP packets and converting the IP packets to signals sent over a public switched network (telephone lines) and, thus, does not contemplate the selection of a home link.

Inoue Reference

Inoue discloses a mobile terminal device having a first communication interface provided with respect to the mobile communication network and a second communication interface provided with respect to the local network. (See Inoue at paragraph [0011].) Inoue further discloses that a gateway device is provided between a fixed communication network and a local network for relaying communications of a mobile terminal device. The gateway device includes a first communication interface provided with respect to the fixed communication network and a second communication interface provided with respect to the local network. That is, the second communication interface is provided for communication to the local network (e.g., the home network). Thus, Inoue is silent regarding selection of a home link from among communication links. This is because, the second communication interface of the gateway device of Inoue is the home link and is not selected. (See Inoue at [0012].)

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa in further view of Inoue for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 6 and 17

Claims 6 and 17, which include similar but not identical features to those of claim 1, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa in further view of Inoue for at least similar reasons to those of claim 1.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10, which include all of the limitations of claim 1 or claim 6, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa in further view of Inoue for at least similar reasons to those of their respective independent claims.

Rejection of Claims 12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 19, claims 12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kimura in view of Furukawa.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 12

Claim 12 is directed to a mobile terminal, and recites "a home agent information response unit generating a response message including home agent information indicative of a location of the home agent stored in the mobile terminal upon receipt of notification of receipt of the verification message from said mobile IP processing unit."

Kimura reference

The Examiner acknowledges that Kimura does not explicitly teach "the mobile IP processing unit further transmits a response message in which the stat [sic] of its mobile router processing is written." Applicant agrees with the Examiner's acknowledgement and further submits that Kimura does not disclose or suggest "a home agent information response unit generating a response message including home agent information indicative of a location of a home agent stored in the mobile terminal upon receipt of notification of receipt of the verification message from said mobile IP processing unit," as required by claim 12.

The Examiner corresponds the response message recited in claim 12 to the agent advertisement message sent from the agent advertisement transmission circuit 124 of the home gateway 110 or the agent advertisement message sent from the agent advertisement transmission circuit 314 of the foreign router. The Examiner further corresponds the mobile node 160 to the mobile terminal recited in claim 12. Because the mobile terminal recited in claim 12 generates a response message (e.g.,

from the home agent information response unit) the agent advertisement messages from circuits 124 or 314 of Kimura cannot correspond to the response message. This is because, the agent advertisement messages in Kimura are generated in either the home gateway 110 or the foreign router which are separate from mobile node 160.

Furukawa

The portions of Furukawa cited by the Examiner do not overcome the deficiencies of Kimura. This is because, Furukawa does not disclose or suggest "a response message including home agent information indicative of a location of a home agent stored in the mobile terminal..." as required by claim 12.

Accordingly, claim 12 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claim 14

Claim 14, which includes all of the limitations of claim 12, is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

Claims 15 and 16

Claims 15 and 16, which include all of the limitations of claim 1 or claim 6, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furugawa for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

Rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, at item 24, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kimura in view of Furukawa in further view of Leung (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,964).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 13, which includes all of the limitations of claim 12, is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

The addition of Leung does not overcome the deficiencies of Kimura in view of Furukawa. This is because, Leung does not disclose or suggest "a home agent information response unit generating a response message including home agent information indicative of a location of a home agent stored in the mobile terminal ...," as required by claim 12.

Instead, Leung which is directed to a method for enabling a node that does not support mobile IP to roam from a first foreign agent to a second foreign agent, is silent regarding a home agent information response unit and, more particularly, such a unit generating a response message including home agent information indicative of a location of the home agent stored in the mobile terminal. In Leung the node, corresponding to the mobile terminal recited in claim 12, does not implement the mobile IP protocol. This node functions without knowledge of the operation of the foreign agent or virtual agent scheme. (See Leung at Column 14, lines 47-49.) Thus, the node (mobile terminal) has no need to store home agent information into a response message.

Accordingly, claim 13 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Kimura in view of Furukawa and in further view of Leung at least for the above-mentioned reasons.

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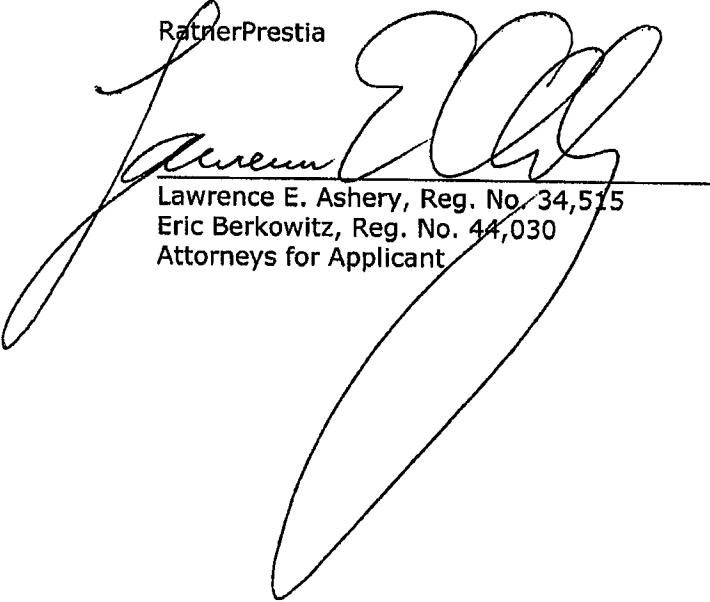
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Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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